THE MURDER OF COL. ELLSWORTH.

MINUTE AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT.

From Our Special Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Friday, May 24, 1861.

I have already given by telegraph a brief account of the successful movement of to-day, and of our sorrowful calamity, and I hasten to send such details as my own observation enables me to supply. The part of the expedition with which I moved was that under command of the late Col. Ellsworth. His Regiment of Zonaves was certainly the most actively employed, and was the earliest upon the hostile ground; and with him were associated the most startling events of the day. Of the general forces which are now assembled in Alexandria, others can speak better than I, for their operations were wholly distinct, until the time of the junction, when they were combined under one command. The exact nature of the inroad, as well as the means by which it was to be effected, were of course withheld from the public up to the latest hour, and the only sure method of gaining accurate knowledge of the result was by joining what seemed likely to be the leading body in the movement.

It was generally understood in Washington, on Thursday evening, that an advance of some sort was contemplated, though the rumors fixed no exact time or point of assault. But as the night advanced, the slight fever of excitement which the half-authorized intelligence created. wore away, and the city fell into its usual tranquillity. The contrast between its extreme quiet and the bustle which pervaded some of the expectant camps, was very remarkable. I crossed the Potomac, from Seventh street, in a little boat, and before I had half reached the Zonave camp, unusual indications of busy preparation came echoing over the water. The night was peculiarly still and clear, and the moon so full and lustroue, that the camp was almost visible from the opposite shore. Above the slight marmur caused by the rustle of arms and the marching, a song would occasionally be heard, " Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," with all the fervor they could bring to it. It was not early when I reached the camp, but the exercise was atil progressing under the vigilance of the Colonel. who threw in now and then clear and energetic counsels for the guidance of his men in the moraing's work. Before midnight everything ncedful had been done, and the troops were scattered to their tents for two hours of rest The Colonel did not sleep until much later. He sot at his table completing the official arrangements which remained to him, and setting carefully before his subordinates the precise character of the duties they were to be charged with. After this he was alone, and I thought, as I entered his tent a little before he turned to his straw and blankets, that his pen was fulfilling a tenderer task than the rough planning of a dangerous exploit. He was so much a stranger to fear, this brave little Colonel, that his friends sometimes wondered at him; but it seemed, then, that he was not insensible to the awful hazards of his station. I hope that those who were nearest to him will find a touch of consolation in the assurance that the last moments he passed

alone were given to them. For more than an hour the encampment was silent. Then it began to stir again, and presently was all alive with action. At 2 o'clock, steamboats appeared off the shore, from one of which Crpt. Dahlgren, the commander of the Navy-Yard, came to announce that all was ready for the transportation. The men marched forward and brought it from its staff. There were two in line, and were drawn up by companies to the beach. At this time, the scene was animated in the highest degree. The vivid costumes of the men-some being wrapped from head to foot in their great red blankets, but most of them clad that they were more than half dressed. We at in their gray jackets and trowers and embroi- once turned to descend, Private Brewnell leaddered caps; the peaks of the tents, regularly dis- ing the way, and Colonel Ellsworth immediately ant acted without concert with anybody; but it is terrible scene enacting. A woman had run from tributed, all glowing like huge lanterns from the following him with the flag. As Brownell fires within them; the glittering rows of rifles and sabers: the woods and hills, and the placid descent of some dozen steps, a man jumped from river, which here meet in exquisite proportion, a dark passage, and hardly noticing the private, enfolding all-and all these suffused with the broad moonlight, were blended in such novel picturesqueness that no man among the throng could fail to be moved by it. The embarkation was rapidly conducted, and, although the spot aim, the slugs or buckshot with which it was chosen was not apparently the most advantageous, loaded entering the Colonel's heart, and killing was completed in less than two hours. The en- him at the instant. I think my arm was resting tire regiment, excepting the small guard necessa- on poor Ellsworth's shoulder at the moment. At rily left behind, nearly one thousand men, were safely bestowed and on their way down the river grasp. He was on the second or third step 4 o'clock, just as the dawn began to shine from the landing, and he dropped forward with over the hills and through the trees.

The night had passed without any noteworthy incident. It had been thought possible that the manner. His assailant had turned like rebels, who could by some means undoubtedly have gained premonition of the mevement, might fire the bridge by which other regiments were to advance upon them, and thus diminish the attacking force for a time. Nothing of this kind, through the panels and wainscot of a door which however, had been attempted, and as we steamed sheltered some sleeping lodegrs. Simultaneously down the river (very slowly, for the boats were with this second shot, and sounding like the heavily laden), there was no sign that we were expected, or that any inroad was provided against. This seemed at first suspicious, ez- exactly in the middle of the face, and the wound, pecially as on nearing Alexandria we found it as I afterward saw it, was the most frightful I sharing the same appearance of repose. It could ever witnessed. Of course Brownell did not hardly be credited that at least a rumor of warning should not have reached them. But if it fore the man dropped, he thrust his saber had, it would appear that their enormous self- basonet through and through the body, the force confidence was not to be even thus disturbed, of the blow sending the dead man violently for it afterward was found that no preparations down the upper section of the second flight of either for resistance or for evacuation had been stairs, at the foot of which he lay with his face made until early in the morning, when, if I am to the floor. Winser ran from above crying, rightly informed, the sloop-of-war Pawnee had sent ashore a summons to surrender the town, our feet, he needed no answer. which I believe the garrison were considering, or had partially assented to, when we arrived. It was not until our boats were about to draw be in store, we forbore to proceed, and gathered up to the wharf that our approach was noticed in any way; but at the latest minute a few sentinels, whom we had long before discerned, fired their muskets in the air as a warning, and, runaing rapidly into the town, disappeared. Two of the Zouaves, fancying that the shots were directed toward them (which they certainly the occupants, two travelers, with immediate were not), discharged their rifles after the retreating forms, but no injury to anybody followed. The town was thus put on its guard, a number converging to the point where we guard was presently distributed over the house, carly the fate of their townsman. The Zouaves

New-York



Tribune.

Vol. XXI....No. 6,269.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1861.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

but yet so early was the hour, and so apparently unlooked for our arrival, that when we landed, about half-past 5 o'clock, the streets were as deserted as if it had been midnight. Before our troops disembarked, a boat, filled

with armed marines, and carrying a flag of truce,

put off from the Pawnee, and landed ahead of us.

From the officer in charge we learned that the

Pawnee had already proposed terms of submis-

sion to the town, and that the Rebels had con-

sented to vacate within a specified time. This

seemed to settle the question of a contest in the

negative; but in the confusion of mustering and

forming the men, the intelligence was not well

understood, and received but little attention. In-

deed, I am quite sure that the Pawnee's officer

did not seek Col. Ellsworth, to communicate with

him, and that the Colonel only obtained a meager

share of information by seeking it directly from

the bearer of the flag of truce himself. No

doubt this omission arose from the confused con-

dition in which affairs then stood. But it would

have caused no difference in the Colonel's mili-

tary plans. No attack was meditated, except in case of a forcible resistance to his progress. On the other hand, the idea of the place being under a truce seemed to banish every suspicion of a resistance either from multitudes 'or individuale. It was just possibly this consideration that led Col. Elisworth to forego the requisite personal precautions, which, if taken, would have prevented his unhappy death. But I am sure none of us at that time estimated the probability of the danger which afterward menaced us. Perhaps the thought of actual bloodshed and death in war was too foreign to our experiences to be rightly weighed. But it certainly did not enter our minds then, as poor Ellsworth's fate has since taught us it should have done, that a town half waked, half terrified, and under truce, could harbor any peril for us. So the Colonel gave some rapid directions for the interruption of the railway course, by displacing a few rails near the depot, and then turned toward the center of the town, to destroy the means of communication southward by the telegraph; a measure which he appeared to regard as very seriously important. He was accompanied by Mr. H. J. Winser, Military Secretary to the Regiment, the Chaplain, the Rev. E. W. Dodge, and myself. At first be summoned no guard to follow him, but he afterward turned and called forward a single squad, with a Sergeant from the first company. We passed quickly through the streets, meeting a few bewildered travelers issuing from the principal hotel, which seemed to be slowly coming to its daily senses, and were about to turn toward the telegraph office, when the Colonel, first of all, caught sight of the Secession flag, which has so long swung insolently in full view of the President's House. He immediately sent back the Serreant, with an order for the advance of the entire first company, and, leaving the matter of the telegraph office for a while, pushed on to the hotel, which proved to be the Marshall House, a second-class inn. On entering the open door, the Colonel met a man in his shirt and trowsers, of whom he demanded what sort of fing it was that hung above the roof. The stranger, who seemed greatly alarmed, declared he knew nothing of it, and that he was only a boarder there. Without questioning him further the Colonel sprang up stairs, and we all followed to the topmost story, whence, by means of a ladder, he clambered to the roof, cut down the flag with Winser's kuife, men in bed in the garret whom we had not observed at all when we entered, their position being somewhat concealed, but who now rose in great apparent amazement, although I observed reached the first landing-place, or entry, after a leveled a double-barreled gun square at the Colonel's breast. Brownell made a quick pass to turn the weapon aside, but the fellow's hand was firm, and he discharged one barrel straight to its any rate, he seemed to fall almost from my own that heavy, horrible, headlong weight which always comes of sudden death inflicted in this a flash to give the contents of the other barrel to Brownell, but either he could not command his aim or the Zonave was too quick with him, for the slugs went over his head, and passed echo of the first, Brownell's rifle was heard, and the assassin staggered backward. He was hit know how fatal his shot had been, and so be-"Who is hit?" but as he glanced downward by

Bewildered for an instant by the suddenness of this attack, and not knowing what more might together defensively. There were but seven of us altogether, and one was without a weapon of any kind. Brownell instantly reloaded, and while doing so perceived the door through which the aveailant's shot had passed, beginning to open. He brought his rifle to the shoulder, and menaced death, if they stirred. The three other privates



COLONEL ELMER E. ELLSWORTH. ASSASSINATED AT ALEXANDRIA, MAY 24, 1861. [A Biography of Cel. Ellsworth was printed in THE TRIBUNE of Saturday.]

stood, while the Chaplain and Winser looked to but meanwhile I had remembered the Colonel's the stair-case by which we had descended, and carnestness about the telegraph seizure, and obthe adjoining chambers. I ran down stairs to tained permission to guide a squad of Zouaves to see if anything was threatened from the story be- the office, which was found to be entirely open, low, but it soon appeared there was no danger | with all the doors ajar, yet apparently deserted. from that quarter. However, we were It looked a little like another chance of a surnot at all disposed to move from our prise. The men remained in charge. I presume through the passages, we discerned a start upon this mission, but I was the only persufficient number of forms to assure us that we son who knew the whereabouts of the office, and were dreadfully in the minority. I think now that the Colonel had been very positive about the there was no dauger, and that the single assail- matter. When I returned to the hotel, there was a impossible to know accurately, and it was cer- a lower room to the stairway where the body tainly a doubtful question then. The first thing of the defender of the Secession flag lay, and to be done was to look to our dead friend and recognizing it, cried alond with an agony so leader. He had fatten on his face, and the streams | heart-rending that no person could witness it of blood that flowed from his wound had lit- without emotion. She flung her arms in the air, erally flooded the way. The Chaplain turned him struck her brow madly, and seemed in every gently over, and I stooped and called his name way utterly abandoned to desolation and frenzy. aloud, at which I thought then he marmured in- She offered no reproaches-appeared indeed al articulately. I presume I was mistaken, and I most regardless of our presence, and yielded am not sure that he spoke a word after being only to her own frantic despair. It was her struck, although in my dispatch I repeated a single exclamation which I had believed he uttered. prictor of the hotel. His name was James T. It might have been Brownell, or the Jackson. Winser was confident it was the same Chaplain, who was close behind me. man who met us at the door when we entered. Winser and I lifted the body with all the and told us he was a boarder. His wife, as I care we could apply, and laid it upon a bed in said, was wild almost to insanity. Yet she a room near by. The rebel flag, stained with listened when spoken to, and although no consohis blood, and purified by this contact from the baseness of its former meaning, we laid about had lost, she seemed sensible to the assurance his feet. It was at first difficult to discover the that the safety of her children, for whom she precise locality of his wound, for all parts of his coat were equally saturated with blood. By cautiously loosening his belt and unbuttoning his coat, we found where the shot had penetrated. None of us had any medical knowledge, but we struck me as a frightful fact, that I say the face saw that all hope must be resigned. Nevertheless, it seemed proper to summon the surgeon as speedily as possible. This could not easily be done, for, seeluded as we were in that part of the town, and uncertain whether an ambush might not be awaiting us also, no man could volunteer to venture forth alone, and to go together, and leave the Colonel's body thousand times. Either of Brownell's onslaughts behind, was out of the question. We wondered at the long delay of the first company, for the advance of which the Colonel had ball. The gun which Jackson had fired lay sent back before approaching the hotel, but we beneath him, clasped in his arms, and as we did subsequently learned that they had mistaken a not at first all know that both barrels had been street, and gone a little out of their way. Be- discharged, it was thought necessary to remove fore they arrived we had removed some of the it, lest it should be suddenly seized and made use unsightly stains from the Colonel's features, and of from below. In doing this, his countenance composed his limbs. His expression in death was was revealed. beautifully natural. The Colonel was a singularly handsome man, and, excepting the pallor, there was nothing different in his countenance now from what all his friends had so lately been accust med to gladly recognize. The detachment was heard approaching at last, a reënforcement was easily called up, and the surgeon was

lation could be offered her by us for what she expressed fears, could not possibly be en-

It is not from any wish to fasten obloquy upon the slayer of Col. Ellsworth, but simply because it of the dead man were the most revolting expression of rage and hatred that I ever saw. Perhaps the nature of his wound added to this effect, and the wound was something so apalling that I shall not attempt to describe it, as it im pressed me. It is probable that such a result from a bullet-wound could not ensue once in a would have been instantaneously fatal. The saberwound was not less effective than that of the

As the morning advanced, the townspeople began to gather in the vicinity, and a guard was fixed, preventing ingress and egress. This was done to keep all parties from knowing what had occurred, for the Zouaves were so devoted to their Colonel that it was feared if they all were made acquainted with the real fact, they would sent for. His arrival, not long after, of course sack the house. On the other hand, it was not scaled our own unbappy belief. A sufficient thought wise to let the Alexandrians know thus

were the only regiment that had arrived, and their head and soul was gone. Besides, the duties which the Colonel had hurriedly assigned before leaving them had scattered some companies in various quarters of the town. Several persons sought admission to the Marshall House, among them a sister of the dead man, who had heard the rumer, but who was not allowed to know the true state of the case. It was painful to hear her remark, as she went away, that " of course they wouldn't shoot a man dead in in his own house about a bit of old bunting." Many of the lodgers were anxious to go forth, but they were detained until after I had left. All serts of arguments and persuasions were employed, but the Zouave guards were inexorable. At about 7 o'clock, a mounted officer rode up,

and informed us that the Michigan 1st had arrived, and had captured a troop of rebels, who had at first demanded time for reflection, but who afterward concluded to yield at diseretion. Not long after this, the surgeon made arrangements for the conveyance of Col. Eilsworth's body to Washington. It was properly vailed from sight, and, with great tenderness, taken by a detachment of the Zouaves and the 71st New-York Regiment (a small number of whom, I neglected to state, embarked in the morning at the Navy-Yard, and came down with us), to the steamboat, by which it was brought to the Navy-Yard. It now remains in the care of Cant. Dahleren.

Washington is greatly excited over the strange news, and there seems to be much doubt among the citizens as to what has really been accomplished. I am as yet ignorant of the movements of other troops sent to occupy the place, but there can be no question but that an ample force, for all the purposes we need to carry out, is now there. I only attempt to furnish a record of that part of the expedition which I witnessed, and to supply the particulars, which would surely be sought after, of the bereavement which has caused our grievous sorrow. I am sure that no young officer in our Northern land could be more sincerely and universally mouraed than Col. Elleworth will be. Perhaps none so much so, for his name was a familiar token for all that was brave, and loyal, and true. There is not a town that did not know him, and could not speak of him to his honor. His friends, while lamenting his early fall, may assure themselves that he perished in performing a daring and courageous action-in resenting a shameful and long undredressed insuit to his Government and the Chief Magistrate of his country. It may be said that his deed was rash, but I should not like to hear this reproach too hardly urged against him. He was young, and ardent, and full of ambition, and perhaps knew not that sense of caution which a colder nature would possess. But it would be well for many of us if we were as free from faults, and as rich in manly virtues, as was this gallant, noble and devoted soldier.

I find that I have been free in speaking of my own very slight connection with the events of this morning. It certainly was not from any anxiety on my part to do so; but because I could not, in making a rapid and yet particular narration of a matter in which so few persons acted, avoid alluding to each incident precisely as it occurred, without pausing to consider, at this time, the question of personality.

The following is the card of the proprietor of the Marshall House, whose death is recorded in the above

MARSHALL HOUSE James W. Jackson, Proprie Jorner of Pitt and King a ALEXANDRIA, Virginia.

Virginia is determined, and will conquer under the command of Janes, Dayle.

THE DEATH OF COL. ELLSWORTH.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON

COUNCIL.

COUNCIL.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on Saturday afternoon, in pursuance of a call of Mayor Wood, for the purpose of taking proper a tion in relation to the death of Col. Ellsworth. The fol-

Mayor Wood, for the purpose of taking proper at in relation to the death of Col. Ellaworth. The following communication was read:

Mayor Wood, for the purpose of taking proper a time in relation to the death of Col. Ellaworth. The following communication was read:

Mayor Wood, for the purpose of taking proper a time in the total college of the colle

of our some in the battle for the "Constitution and the Union."

Resolved, That in addition to adopting the recommendation of his Honor the Mayor, to assign the use of the Governor's room, to-morrow, for the purpose of receiving in state the remains of Elms E. Elleworth, the John Special Committee on National Anairs of the Common Council be and they are hereby authorized to take such other measures as to them may appear necessary, in paying a proper tribute of respect to the remains of the deceased, and on it further

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, duly antinenticated, be engreased and transmittee to the family of the deceased.

The report of the proceedings of the Union Defence Committee, relative to the death of Col. Elleworth, was received. (Already printed in The Treduck.)

The following communication was received from the company No. 11, who was shot by a sent expected to reach this city early this morning.

the members of the Bar in relation to the death of Col.

Ellswork. We desire to join in any measures which your hose body may deem appropriate to the coastes.

Very respectfully yours Ac.,

RICHARD O'GORMAN. Committee.

Oll BERT DEAN.

Alderman Platt, moved that the Bar be invited to participate in the obsequies in connection with the Common Council, which was adopted.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

The Board held a special messing on Saturday afternoon, in pursuance of a call i sues by the Mayor to take appropriate action in regard to the death of Col. Ellsworth. Mr. Barney offered the following resources.

lution:
Whereas, The Common Council of the City of New York have
Whereas, The Common Council of the City of the death of

tion be antiably engressed, and transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Review, That a Special Committee of five from each Beard he suppointed, with full power to teoperate with Committees already appointed from once bodies.

The resolutions were adopted.

The PRESIDENT offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Governor's thoon in the City Hall be placed at the disposal of the Committees and family of the late Col.

Elisworth, while the body is laying in sets therein.

This resolution was also antispted.

A copy of the committee and tampted.

A copy of the committee was received, and with Aldminut Farley's resolutions, referred to the Joint Committee on National Affairs.

The Board then adjourned.

MEETING OF BOARD OF ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE

Last night the Board of Engineers of the Fire De-

partment held a meeting at Firemen's Hall, in Mercer street, Assistant-Engineer Balch in the chair. Mr. Thomas, foreman of Hose Company No. 19, noved the following preambles and resolutions, which

moved the following preambles and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted;

Binerox. The calendy that has befalled the regiment recreited from the New York Flux Bepartment is the unimely decomposite of their commanding officer, Col. S. F. Ellsworth, demands from this body a hearty expansion of serrow at the loss that the community, as well as the Volunteer Service generally, has attende and Whereov. A public expression of regret from the Board is commented part from the Board is deminently just, feeling as we do, that the decease of Col. Ellsworth is no ordinary committy therefore, Passleed, That the Board feel deeply their inability properly to express their deep feelings of corrow at the outlinedy and of Col. E. E. Ellsworth. His obtaines as an often sometic of or the regiment under his a mancel distinction to the field. The affectionate regard for him by his usen peen seed that unanimity of feeling and section to essential to success; and that at he open-

family of Col. Edissecth, and to the regiment of Fire Zouaves, and entered in full open too minutes.

The line is to form on Broadway at 1 o'clock, right-resting on Murray street.

Hose Co. No. 42 to have the Fire Department ban-ner. The members of the Department to parade in cutzen's dress, with crape on lest arm.

The various companies will form in reverse numeriscal order.

PROGRAMME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE

OBSEQUIES OF THE LATE COL. ELLSWORTH.

The remains will arrive by an early train from Ph-ladelphia on Sunday morning. Gen. Hall will detail a military escort. The Chief Engineer of the Fig. Department will direct an escort of firemen, which together with the Fand Committee of the Firemen's Zouave Regiment, will receive the body at the rail-

Zouave Regiment, will receive the body at the radroad depot in Jensey City. Taey will then proceed to the Astor House, where the remains will be given into the charge of the family of deceased, who will held them till 10 o'clock a. m. There will be a private funeral service during the interval.

At 10 o'clock the Joint Committee of the Common Council and the Fund Committee will take charge of the body, and proceed with it to the Governor's Room at the City Hall, where the citizens will have an opportunity of viewing it from 11 o'clock a. m. to 1 o'clock p. m.

o'clock p. m. onder of processios.

Military, under command of Brig. Gen. Hell.

New York Fire Department.

Heave.

Hon, Hamilton Fish,
John Jacob Astor, Jr.
Theodore Dehon,
Gen. France M. Wetmoon,
Col. Edward Hincken.
Col. Fox Col. William II. Ailen.
Robt. T. Haw. Conductor of the Chile Union Defence Committee Gen. Pr. seer. M. Wetmere, J.
Col. Edward Hincken. Cel. Asbeth.
Col. William H. Allen. Cel. Asbeth.
Robt. T. Haw. Construler of the City of New York.
Wm. H. Windham, President of the Bar Department.
Henry A. Burr, President of the Bar Department.
John Decker, Chaf Engineer of the Fire Department.
Wm. M. Tweed. Commissioner of the Fire Department.
George F. Nachitt.

Gen. Juhn A. Din and Office co of the First Division of Voluntees. Common Coorest.
Heads of Depa tenents.
Members of the lar.
Home Guard of the 2th Requirest Washington Grays.

Civis Societies.
Citizens generally.
The Union Defense Countities meet in the Mayor's Office.
Officers of Gen. Dix's division meet in the room of the Boare of Conscilir en.
The Home Guards, 8th Regiment, form on Warren street, the

societies farm in Chambers street

The line of march will be up Chabnan arrest, Bowery, and Fourth avenue to Fourteenth street, down Fourteenth street and Broadway to Courtlands treet, down Courtlands street the steamer Francis Skiddy.

Acting Major-General Hall will not as Grand Marshal.

A. J. DELATOUR, Chairman Committee pre tem.

Gro. P. Nashir, Secretary.

General Order No. 2.]

The General annuances the death of Col. Ellsworth, of the Hith Regiment G. Y. S. Volunteers.

A deep gloom has again been east over the community, and we are called to mourn the has of another soldier stricken down in discharge of his datles.

In the first hour of his country's danger he agrang to ber rescue, and from her midst gatested those who went with him, piedged to redeem the honor of our Figs. His unfiring one ty and acknowledged skill as a disciplinarian gave bright hopes of intime needloses, and although he has fallen by the hand of the discassin before these hopes were folly realized, yet his name will always be dear to every partied and terrible in retribution to all trainers. Though we mount his loss, we accept it as a assertion widel will inspire anew every true heart with the determination that the Fing of Constitutions, liberty shall be hoisted and is all uniform. The Division will parade in Call uniform, with usual hadge 's mourning, to-marrow (Sunday), 25th hast, to attend the funer of the late Cal. Elsworth, p. m.

Brigade Major R. Asylor will act as Division-Inspector.

Capt. Rayor, of the ad Company Washington Continental Guard, will report himself to Col. Lo Gal, commanding 2d Brigade. By order,

WM HALL, Brig, Gen.

Commanding its Div. M. Y. S. M.

The remains, also, of John Butterworth (Zouave)